V. *A Letter from* William Hallett, *M. D. to* Henry Pemberton, *M. D. F. R. S. & Chem. Prof.* Greſham; *containing the* Caſe *of a Lad, who was* ſhot *through the* Lungs; *drawn up by Mr.* Nich. Peters *junior, Surgeon.*

To Dr. Pemberton.

Dear Sir, *Exeter, Sept.* 21. 1744.

Read Nov. 8. 1744. I HAVE now ſent you the remarkable Caſe, which I ſhew'd you lately when you were at my Houſe, of a Lad who was ſhot in the Lungs. It is drawn up by Mr. *Peters*, his Surgeon; and you have it under, in his own Hand.

To Dr. Hallett, *at* Exeter.

SIR, *Topſham, Sept.* 12. 1744.

ACcording to your Requeſt, I ſend you the Caſe of *James Channon*; which, as it was pretty remarkable from the Beginning, I then noted down; ſo that you have the Symptoms related not barely from Memory, but as they were in Fact when they occurr'd. I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble Servant,

Nich. Peters, *junior.*

Dec. 28. 1737. *James Channon*, aged about 14, was accidentally ſhot in his Back by another Lad,

at the Diſtance of two Yards from him; ſo that the whole Load of Shot, not having Space to ſcatter, enter'd like a Ball, by the Edge of the Left *Scapula*, which it ſplinter'd; and, ſlanting upward, paſs'd between the two ſuperior Ribs, and fractur'd the Clavicle; the Reſiſtance of which Bone hinder'd their Paſſage thro' the Skin; for ſome of them lay immediately on the fractur'd Part, cover'd only by the *Cutis*; which, with a Touch of the Inciſion-Knife, I took out, in Number about a Dozen: They were the ſmall Muſtard-ſeed Shot.

After reducing the Fracture, I drew off ten Ounces of Blood (he having loſt but very little by the Wound); and treated the Wound in his Back as uſual in Gun-ſhot Wounds; and the Fever which attended it, as a common ſymptomatic Fever. In 8 or 9 Days time a plentiful Suppuration came on, and his Fever abated.

Towards the Middle of *January*, the Diſcharge of fetid *Pus* was ſo great, not only through the Wound, but alſo by Expectoration, that I thought he could not long ſurvive it: At each Time of Dreſſing (which was Morning and Evening, till the Quantity leſſen'd) full ſix Ounces of *Pus* were diſcharg'd: The like Quantity he would generally cough up between the Dreſſings. When the Dreſſings were removed, I frequently made him force a Cough, and try if he could not throw out any *Pus* by his Mouth; but, inſtead of paſſing that Way, it flew out thro' the Wound, like Water from a Pump: If I blocked up the Wound with Tow, he could then freely diſcharge it by the Mouth. When the Matter had done flowing, the Air which was forc'd thro' the Wound by Coughing, would blow out a Candle, which I often experienced.

experienced. The Matter was ſo prodigiouſly fetid, that, for ſome time after he was dreſs'd, the Stink in the Chamber was ſcarce tolerable; and it was near the Middle of *March* before the Diſcharge began to abate. In this Space of Time he cough'd up 25 Shot; had frequently hectic Heats, and Night-Sweats; a quick feveriſh Pulſe return'd conſtantly towards Evening, with great Thirſt; he had loſt his Appetite, and was greatly emaciated; his chief Food was Milk, and Phyſick the Bark.

In order to give a free Paſſage to the Matter thro' the Wound, and prevent the Stink from killing him (as the poor Boy expreſſed it), by coming through the Mouth, I had for ſome time kept a *Cannula* in the Wound; but, in leſs than a Fortnight, I found myſelf obliged to leave it quite out; for tho' it anſwer'd the End of giving the Matter a free Paſſage that Way, and prevented its coming by the Mouth, yet the Quantity thro' the Wound increaſed daily, and his hectic Heats became more violent.

Seeing no Proſpect of any End to be put to the Diſcharge of Matter, it keeping up to its uſual Quantity for a Month or 6 Weeks longer, and the poor Boy reduced to a meer Skeleton, I was determined, if poſſible to heal the Wound, and commit the Event to Nature; there not being one favourable Symptom to give the leaſt Hope of his Recovery.

About the Middle of *June* the Wound was quite cicatriz'd, 2 or 3 Exfoliations being firſt caſt off from the *Scapula*. His Cough ſtill continued with a Diſcharge of the ſame fetid *Pus*, but in three Weeks it began to abate; and, towards the latter End of *July*, he had gain'd Fleſh, and his Cough had left him; he

walked abroad, and was, to Appearance, quite recover'd. But this fair Proſpect did not laſt long; for, towards the latter End of *Auguſt*, I was called to him in the Night, and found him ſupported in the Bed, with a Half-pint Baſon in his Hand, almoſt full of the ſame Sort of ſtinking putrid Matter, which he uſed to cough up: It had been emptied but a Quarter of an Hour before, ſo that, in leſs than half an Hour, he had expectorated a full Pint. This Cough continued upon him 16 Hours longer; when, the Load of Matter being pump'd up, he grew much better. Two or three Days before this ſevere Attack, he had complained of being faint, feveriſh, and ſtrait at the Breaſt, for which he was bled, *&c.* In this Fit of Coughing, he brought up with the *Pus* 14 Shot. He had three of theſe violent Returns before the Summer was quite over, which reduced him nearly to his former weak State, but diſcharged no Shot.

In *November* following, I laid on a Cauſtic to the *Cicatrix* of the Wound in his Back; and kept it open with a large Bean, to try if a Diſcharge, by way of Iſſue, might divert the Matter from coming by the Mouth: He had no ſuch violent Seizures afterward, but ſtill a hectic Cough upon him, which expectorated a ſmall Quantity of the ſame fetid *Pus:* The Diſcharge from the Iſſue was pretty conſiderable, and he weather'd out the Winter tolerable well.

In *March* 1739, he grew feveriſh, and complain'd of a great Load and Pain juſt above the Diaphragm, on the Left Side: I applied a warm Plaiſter, and drew off ten Ounces of Blood, which I found was pretty much inflamed. A few Days afterwards an Abſceſs formed between the Ribs, where he had before complained

plained of the Pain; which I opened, and diſcharged about four Ounces of the ſame fetid Matter, and 18 Shot. Here was a true *Empyema*, and I had now great Hopes of a Cure, Nature having pointed out ſuch a depending Part, for a Diſcharge of what Matter might be lodged in the *Thorax*. I then healed up the Iſſue in his Back, and kept this new Wound open with a *Cannula*; but, within ten Days, the Matter had ceaſed flowing, his feveriſh Symptoms again increas'd, and his Cough return'd with a Diſcharge of the ſame putrid Matter. I threw aſide the *Cannula*, and healed the Wound between the Ribs, it anſwering no End to keep it open longer. The remaining Part of the Year 1739, he had ſeveral Returns of his Cough, with pretty large Expectorations, but they were not of long Continuance; frequent Bleedings, a Milk-Diet, and vulnerary Medicines, were made uſe of.

In the Years 1740, 41, 42, towards Spring and Autumn, he generally was ſeized with a Difficulty of Breathing, and Pain of the Side: Bleeding would relieve him for the preſent, but it ſeldom ended without a Diſcharge of the ſame Sort of *Pus* by Coughing, and with it, ſometimes, one or two Shot. At the latter End of the Summer 1741, he had an Abſceſs formed in the left Side, between the true and ſpurious Ribs: I open'd it, and with the Matter diſcharged 9 Shot.

Between theſe grand Fits of Coughing (if I may ſo call them), which happen'd three or four Times in the Year, he would gain Strength, grow fat, and work at his Trade of Glove-making.

Towards

Towards the latter End of *March* 1743, his Cough return'd again with the ſame uſual Violence, and the Diſcharge in One Night was a full Pint of fetid bloody *Pus*; half that Quantity was expectorated next Day. He had the ſame feveriſh Symptoms a few Days before this Cough, as uſual, but rather more ſevere. It continued upon him 8 Days before it began to abate. No Shot were diſcharged at this time, as was expected; but he coughed up a broad Scale of a Bone, ragged at the Edges, and of an irregular Shape, which, I imagine, was a Part of the *Scapula*. A few Weeks after this he was taken into your Hoſpital.

Thus far Mr. *Peters*. He had the Benefit of the *Devon* and *Exeter* Hoſpital, under my Care for 15 Months; during which Time he was hectical, had ſometimes pleuritic Pains, for which he was often bled, and took ſoft Pectorals. He frequently ſpit *Pus* in great Quantities. I confin'd him to a Milk-Diet; order'd him Balſamics, particularly *Balſ. Locatelli* in an Electuary. He is now healthy, ſtrong, and fat; and frequently walks from *Topſham* to *Exeter*, which is near four Miles, and returns the ſame Day.

I am *&c.*

William Hallett.